

# Brisbane Jazz Club

Newsletter  
June  
2009

[www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au](http://www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au)



Huge river deck | Fully Licensed bar | Meals | Fully air-conditioned | Onsite car-parking | Friendly atmosphere

On the river at 1 Annie St Kangaroo Point (next to the Holman Street ferry stop) | Bookings - 07 3391 2006 | fax - 07 3891 9931 | [bookings@brisbanejazzclub.com.au](mailto:bookings@brisbanejazzclub.com.au)

## President's Report

DEAR Members

"Just listen to the collective creations of unique artists, joining together in unique combinations and in unique settings to share their souls with each other and with you" (Joshua Redman December 1992). I think Joshua has captured and expressed the essence of the BJC community and the experience we have each time we open the doors. Once again this month Mal Woods and the music subcommittee have put together a great program to enjoy as you can see in this newsletter.

As the committee we love the fact that BJC is a club that you want to belong to and enjoy and we will be inviting you to renew your membership in the next month. We will also be beginning the processes required for a successful AGM in September and if you would like to nominate for a valued committee position please let us know. In May, volunteering week was celebrated and I am very proud of the achievement of all volunteers associated with the club who have provided jazz at 1 Annie Street for 38 years. Congratulations. This month I am stepping down from the role of President in the committee for 4 months due to work and family commitments. Neil Walsh as Vice President will step up and will provide the leadership that keeps the club alive. Thank you Neil.

We are reviewing our bookings procedures and our office hours. When phoning for a booking please leave a message in preference to phoning again as your call will be returned. You may also note that the club is only available to members for private functions and therefore reference to private functions has been removed from the website. We will also be launching a new website in the next month.

Two of our young Talking Jazz musicians were short listed for awards judged during the Melbourne International Jazz Festival in April. Congratulations John Smithers who was awarded the Future Leaders of Jazz Award.

Yours in jazz at BJC  
Yvonne D'Occhio - President BJC.

## Future Leaders Jazz Award Review

*During May a product of our Talkin' Jazz program, sponsored by The Brisbane City Council and supported by ourselves, sent Jon Smeathers off to Melbourne to compete in the Future Leaders of Jazz Awards. It was a marvellous opportunity for Jon to mix with the cream of Australian jazz and to experience the Melbourne jazz scene. Below is an account of Jon's big adventure.*

"Future leaders jazz award was not just about the competition but enjoying some new experiences. The first experience was getting up at 4:00 am to get on a 6:00 am flight on a Saturday morning. Not only was it early when the plane touched down in Melbourne it was also very chilly. Soon the trousers and many layers were slipped on before setting off to explore Melbourne. This included running between cafes and stores as to avoid the freezing weather and eventually crashing at the state library browsing through their jazz collection. At 3:00 pm it was time to head to Bennett's Lane for a rehearsal and meet the other finalists. Despite the nerves the rehearsals went well with every finalists obviously the nations best. The backing band was superb and full of energy. After a few hours of rehearsing and getting to know each other we all headed through the pouring rain to the Langham hotel on Southbank.

The next morning we waited outside in the bitter cold. We walked down what seemed like 45 flights of stairs and entered a small basement where 5 judges were sat, all VCA lectures, and the band was ready to play. Each finalist performed their ballad then in the second round performed a song of their choice. All the other finalists were playing better than the rehearsal elevating to a new height. After the finals were trudged through the pouring rain to Federation Square. There we waited, and chatted to some of the judges and just tried to relax. It didn't really feel like a competition we all got on so well and were so grateful to have such a wonderful opportunity. Our parents met us there and we all gathered round to here the announcement. I couldn't here so I walked around the back and round the side to try and get closer. As this was happening the winners was announced, vocalist Maddy Swan and my name. I didn't hear it so I thought Maddy had won but then everyone was looking at me as well. I was so surprised and a rush of nerves hit me again as I thought of what I had to do now. After some time I headed across to BMW edge concert hall where there was already people cueing up to get in



Maddy Swan, Jon Smeathers - winners of the Future Jazz Leaders Award at the Melbourne Jazz Festival.

for the opening night of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival. I walked into the hall to see a bustle of people getting ready for the big night and Charlie Haden sound checking. Maddy and I sat down in the middle just behind Zac Hurren and Rafael Karlen. We were then introduced to the sound guys and other important organisers of the festival. We then headed down to the green room where we met the Liberation Orchestra made up of some of the finest Australian musicians including, Jamie Oehlers, Scott Tinkler, and Paul Grawbowsky. They were all very nice guys and said they can't wait to hear us perform. My thoughts then were I would rather play in front of a million people than those guys. The sound check went quickly and soon people started to pour into the concert hall. The tension was building at a dramatic rate. Thinking that audience were all jazz enthusiasts or musicians. Maddy perform to perfection doing a beautiful rendition of The Nearness Of You. We swapped places and my heart was really pounding. Sam Keevers playing the opening chord and off we went a musical journey. Every distraction just disappeared and everything seemed to flow perfectly. We finished 10 minutes later to a huge applause from a very appreciative audience. The final experience was sitting right in front of Charlie Haden watching the room explode with musical greatness it was a wonderful experience.

This experience would have never happened without the support and dedication of, The Brisbane Jazz Club, the Talkin' Jazz program and all the other young jazzers, Mal, and Brodie. A very special thank you needs to go to Greg, Tnee, Melissa, Graeme and my parents as well as any other musician who has helped me on my journey not just with Jazz but in life as well.

**Congratulations Jon! We are very proud of your achievement. You are a very talented musician and you have a very bright future ahead of you.**

## June is another big month of live jazz at the BJC with...

The Caxton Street Jazz Band, Bruce Woodward and Melissa Forbes, The New Groove Big Band, Ingrid James and the Creative Generations, The Qld Jazz Archives Fundraiser, The Brisbane Big Band, The Chris Poulsen Trio, The Brisbane Contemporary Big Band, Gregg Arthur and the Andrew Shaw Quartet, The Cool Nights Big Band, Peter Walters and Kristina Kelman, Galapagos Duck and the University of Qld Big Band!

Wow, that's an awesome month of one of the finest selections in live jazz anywhere in the country!

## GETTING JAZZY WITH...

### MALCOLM WOOD

**As a child I was...** full of energy and very excitable.

**The question I'm most often asked is...** – are you Brad Pitt?

**Three things people might not know about me...**

1. I was in the Qld Ballet Theatre as a young man.
2. I was with the Australian Army Reserve for 15 years.
3. I worked in a pub in England for 6 months with five gorgeous women. Ooh

**My worst habit is...** working too hard.

I don't have any guilty pleasures.

**It's a bit daggy but I love...** The Two Ronnies, Dave Allen and Benny Hill.

**The strangest place I've been recognized is...** Heathrow Airport, England

**My first job was...** serving beers in a tent for the BJC Carnival [in the carpark].

**If i were a superhero, my superpower would be...**

happiness of the heart

**The first concert I went to was...**

The King Singers, Mayne Hall, U Q Campus.

**The first record I bought was...**

Complete Madness – Madness.

**A song that resonates with me is...**

Many Rivers to Cross – Jimmy Cliff.

**The Musician I'd most like to work with is...** Bach or Harry Connick Jnr.

**My first gig was...** Busking in Central Station subways and Queen St Mall.

**The best advice I was given was...**

Be Cool and to overcome, improvise and adapt.



## Reviewing Rita and friends

### Friday 8 May - Dan Quigley Quintet

A night of cool, relaxing west coast type jazz, recognizable melodic tunes with a beat [ and no " own " compositions ] performed by 5 very competent musicians. The performance included a lovely melodic bass solo from Helen Russell which was a delight. What a pity we did not have the numbers in attendance. Dan in his remarks to the audience and also directly to me was very complimentary in relation to the BJC committee and the work it does in providing such a venue, this is something one rarely hears from our performers and it is nice to know we are appreciated. *Alan*

### Thursday 7 May – Jazz Groove Mothership Orchestra

We were treated to an exciting night of brilliant big band playing from this All – Star Sydney line – up of the who's who in the Jazz world from down south. Featuring Bert Yoris, a European jazz Trumpeter/ Composer who displayed an advanced lyricism on trumpet and flugelhorn, this band held the focus of the audience with incredible dynamics and emotion. Mark Smith once again did a fantastic job ensuring all the musical conversations could be heard and understood clearly. After a sell out performance at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival and a National tour, several members of the band expressed on how warm and welcoming the Brisbane Jazz Club was as a venue. *Malcolm*

### Sunday 3 May – Ian McCrae Big Band

The Ian McCrae Big Band entertained us professionally. What a hot, tight outfit. The music was well known to all, delivered exceptionally well and accepted by all. Not a foot in the house was still. The dance floor was constantly full and everybody had a great night. The night started with the big band minus 7, a great quartet that warmed the crowd for a huge performance from Brad Leaver as he engaged the crowd with all the songs from the Frank Sinatra song book ably backed by the big band. It sounded like Basie's band. It was just magic! Another success for the Brisbane Jazz Club! *Neil*



### Friday 1 May The Joe Marchisella Group

Another 10 out 10 for the BJC. About 80 people enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of Joe Marchisella's sensitive drum playing, Mal's magic moments on trumpet, Andrew's haunting bass solo's – the air was electric with the mellow vibrations – James great guitar playing and sexy Graeme on sax. Claire Walters sang well and was well received. It was one of those awesome nights when you wanted more from these incredible musicians and all the audience stayed until the end. A true reflection on the calibre of the evening. *Rita*

### Sunday 26 April – Jazz Breakfast with Jeff Smith, Steve Wood and Malcolm Wood

What a great way to put in a Sunday morning at the Brisbane Jazz Club! The food was up to its usual high standard but the entertainment was exceptional! Steve and son Malcolm Wood with Jeff Smith. What a mix of instruments with Piano, Piano Accordion, Trumpet, Cornet, Flugelhorn, Banjo, Vocals and various penny whistles. That's a crazy mix but worked a treat! All the old favourites were brought out and were readily accepted by the patrons, to the extent that many were singing along which created a wonderful atmosphere. Come to brekkie at the Brisbane Jazz Club, you will be glad you did! *Neil*

### Gossip...

Our own Rita Laurie made it big this month by appearing on the front cover of QGC magazine. What glamour! Congratulations Rita we are all very proud of you.



#### BJC Office Hours

4 – 7pm, Tues – Fri

#### President

Yvonne D'Occhio

#### Vice-President

Neil Walsh

#### Treasurer

Tony Freedland

#### Secretary

Rita Laurie

#### Committee

David Hardiker

Alan Webster

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George Macionis ☎ 07 3391 1390

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contacts